

Pipeline Enhancement to Recruit, Support and Invigorate Student Transitions (PERSIST) Project

- Award # 2006-38422-17151
 - Amount \$139,888.00
- Columbia Basin College

CSREES/USDA Mission Area

- This program will increase the pipeline of interested students in the food and agricultural science and other USDA related careers.
- Two Educational Need Areas will be met: Instruction Delivery System and Student Recruitment and Retention (including student financial assistance)

PERSIST Objectives

- To identify & recruit 30 students interested in food and agricultural science degrees and USDA related careers
- To provide alternative instruction delivery and academic support services to retain 90% of recruited students
- To assist 90% of students in transferring to other higher education institutions

PERSIST Activities

- Outreach & recruitment
- Retention services
 - Academic support
 - Supplemental Instruction
- Transfer services
 - Continue higher education experiences in food and agriculture science areas

Beneficiaries

- 30 underrepresented, low-income or at-risk students
- Beneficiaries will receive outreach & retention services:
 - Scholarship Support
 - Supplemental Instruction
 - Academic Guidance
 - Mentoring & Internship placements
 - Transfer Assistance

Evaluation

- Data Elements
 - Educational Plans
 - Academic progress assessments
 - Quarterly grades
 - Number of students pursuing USDA related degrees
 - Number of students enrolled in gateway math and science courses
 - Ethnicity of students enrolled
 - Retention rate of students in USDA related degrees
 - Number of students graduating & transferring
 - Qualitative reports from students

Expected Impact

- Increase awareness of USDA career opportunities and fields of study
- Increase number and diversity of students pursuing USDA related career paths
- Improve retention rate of students enrolled in USDA related degree programs
- Increase number of students graduating and transferring to Universities